

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-13 are pending in the application. Claims 7-13 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 6 herewith are amended. Claims presently active are claims 1 (amended), 2-5 and 6 (amended).

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph. The rejections are traversed. With respect to claim 1, lines 6-7, and the Examiner's assertion that "solid plastic material disposed at least partially therein" constitutes new matter. Applicants respectfully take the position that at page 11, lines 5-7 of the instant specification defines the solid plastic material recited in claim 1. According to the specification it is provided, in pertinent part, "After the plastic has cooled in the mold to the point that it has solidified" This clearly relates to the solidification of the molten plastic that defines the solid plastic material of claim 1. Applicants respectfully made the other necessary amendments to the claims in accordance with the Examiner's comments in the Office Action. These amendments are deemed to now conform the claims to the requirements of the rules.

Claims 1 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cumming in view of Fujimoto et al. The rejection is traversed. It is the conclusion of the Examiner that "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicants' invention to have modified the apparatus of Cumming as such to have provided the apparatus with a first and second platens because this would have allowed the mold base to be used in a pressing operation as suggested by Fujimoto." The Examiner further concludes "It also would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to have modified the apparatus of Cumming as such to have provided the mold bases with guide pins and corresponding apertures because this would have aided in guiding and aligning the mold bases when the mold is opened and closed as suggested by Fujimoto."

Applicants take the position that the invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by Cumming alone or in any legally permissible combination with Fujimoto et al. Applicants concur with the Examiner that Cumming fails to teach “the apparatus to comprise first and second platens supporting the mold bases.” Also, it is the Examiner’s position that “Cumming also fails to teach the mold bases to comprise an alignment member comprising a pair of guide pins and corresponding spaced apertures.” Importantly, Applicants submit that Cumming further fails to teach two sets of guide pins, a pair of straight guide pins in first alignment member and a pair of lengthwise tapered locating bushings in the second alignment member. Support can be found in Applicants’ disclosure at Fig. 9 noting feature 88 (straight guide pins) and feature 86 (lengthwise tapered locating bushings). Also, see page 10 at lines 20-31.

In view thereof, it follows that the subject matter of the claims would not have been obvious of Cumming in view of Fujimoto et al. at the time the invention was made.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cumming modified by Fujimoto et al. and further in view of Maus et al. The rejection is traversed. It is the conclusion of the Examiner that “It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant’s invention to have modified the apparatus of Cumming and Fujimoto as such to have made the mold an injection molding assemblage because this is suitable way to form the desired molded product as suggested by Maus.”

Applicants take the position that claim 4 is patentable over Cumming modified by Fujimoto et al. and further in view of Maus et al. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1 (amended) and, therefore, incorporates all of the patentable features thereof, as discussed above.

In view thereof, it follows that the subject matter of the claims would not have been obvious of Cumming modified by Fujimoto et al. and further in view of Maus et al. at the time the invention was made.

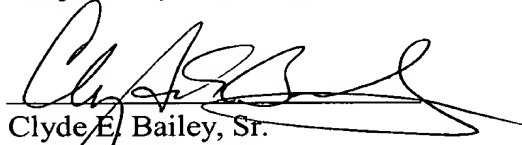
Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record, including Hoopman et al., Cumming, Fujimoto et al., and Maus et al. and believe that singly or in any suitable combination, they do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims 1 (amended) 2-5 and 6 (amended) are now deemed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,


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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 7-13 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as set forth below:

1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for manufacturing a double-sided microlens, comprising:

a first mold base and a second mold base, said first mold base having a first alignment member for cooperating with correspondingly aligned second alignment member in said second mold base, and wherein each of said first mold base and said second mold base has a pair of juxtaposed mold cavities for receiving a [microlens mold in a fixed relationship, each one of said pair of juxtaposed mold cavities having a solid plastic material disposed at least partially therein and] molten plastic or a plastic preform in a fixed relationship; and, a set of alignment features for aligning with said pair of juxtaposed mold cavities containing said solid plastic material, and wherein said first alignment member comprises a pair of spaced guide pins [disposed in] for engaging a pair of corresponding spaced apertures formed in said second mold base, [said spaced apertures having a pair of spaced tapered bushings arranged therein for receiving said spaced guide pins] and wherein said second alignment member comprises a pair of spaced locating bushings tapered for lengthwise engagement with a pair of corresponding spaced tapered apertures in said second mold base; and,

a molding assemblage having a first platen and an opposing second platen, said first platen supporting said first mold base and said second platen supporting said second mold base for molding a double-sided microlens in said microlens molds.

6. (Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 1 wherein each one of said pair of juxtaposed mold cavities is [formed in a polygonal substrate for receiving said microlens mold in a fixed relationship] polygonally shaped.